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Appl. No. 10/680,648

Atty. Docket No. 30207US01

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended). A ladder stand-off for use with a ladder having a pair of laterally spaced side rails defining a ladder width, said ladder stand-off comprising:

a beam having first and second ends;

a first arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a first point located between said first and second beam ends;

a second arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a second point located between said first and second beam ends, said second point being spaced from said first point a predetermined distance, wherein said first and second arms extend outward from said beam so as to be angularly divergent with respect to each other; and

a contact element pivotally connected to a second end of each of said first and second arms; and

means for detachably securing said beam to said ladder.

Claim 2 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said beam is straight.

Claim 3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein each contact element comprises an L-shaped member having first and second sections, said first section being pivotally connected to said second end.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein each contact element comprises a U-shaped member having two side legs joined by a central web, said side legs straddling said second end.

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Claim 6 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 3 wherein said second end of each arm includes a pair of flanges and each contact element is positioned between a corresponding pair of said flanges.

Claim 7 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said predetermined distance is less than said ladder width.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said second ends of said first and second arms ~~a second end of said first arm and a second end of said second arm~~ are spaced apart a distance that is less than the length of said beam.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said second ends of said first and second arms ~~a second end of said first arm and a second end of said second arm~~ are spaced apart a distance that is at least equal to said ladder width.

Claim 10 (original). A ladder stand-off for use with a ladder having a pair of laterally spaced side rails defining a ladder width, said ladder stand-off comprising:

a beam having first and second ends;

a first arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a first point located between said first and second beam ends;

a second arm fixedly connected at a first end thereof to said beam at a second point located between said first and second beam ends, said second point being spaced from said first point a predetermined distance, wherein said first and second arms extend outward from said beam;

a contact element pivotally connected to a second end of each of said first and second arms; and

means for detachably securing said beam to said ladder.

Claim 11 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said beam is straight.

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Claim 12 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein each contact element comprises an L-shaped member having first and second sections, said first section being pivotally connected to said second end.

Claim 13 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein each contact element comprises a U-shaped member having two side legs joined by a central web, said side legs straddling said second end.

Claim 14 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said second end of each arm includes a pair of flanges and each contact element is positioned between a corresponding pair of said flanges.

Claim 15 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said predetermined distance is less than said ladder width.

Claim 16 (original). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said second ends of said first and second arms are spaced apart a distance that is less than the length of said beam.

Claim 17 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said a second ends of said first and second arms are spaced apart a distance that is ~~at least~~ equal to said ladder width.

Claim 18 (cancelled).

Claim 19 (currently amended). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 ~~48~~ wherein said first and second arms define an angle therebetween that is less than 90 degrees.

Claim 20 (new). The ladder stand-off of claim 1 wherein said beam, said first arm and said second arm comprise square tubing.

Claim 21 (new). The ladder stand-off of claim 10 wherein said beam, said first arm and said second arm comprise square tubing.

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